

Govt. Unionism Issues Are Still Being Debated

By TIM RICHARD

Michigan allows many public employees to bargain collectively, but a number of unresolved issues remain in the long-tough field.

Compulsory arbitration, the impartiality of third parties and the relation of bargaining to the government's budget are still unresolved issues, according to panelists at last week's Michigan Municipal League convention.

The convention drew hundreds of mayors, councilmen and department heads to Lansing.

Finally, Marsh said, compulsory arbitration in Saginaw was used by the firefighters union, not as a last resort, but as an inevitability at the beginning of bargaining; thus, he declared, there was no incentive for either the city or the union to make serious offers or demands.

A bill providing for compulsory arbitration passed the Legislature this session but was defeated on a reconsideration vote, Marsh said.

THE NEED FOR "independent third parties" to decide jurisdictional disputes was underscored by Robert Hastings, executive assistant to the president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO. AFSCME represents most uncounseled non-teaching public employees in Michigan.

A problem often arises as to what is an appropriate bargaining unit, Hastings said, and it should be referred to an independent third party.

The Michigan Labor Mediation Board doesn't fill the bill, Hastings said. New York has what he considers a better system. The mayor appoints two members, the union appoints two members, and three members appoint three members.

Jagfield Resides in South Lyon.

The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority is a five-county agency with eight recreational sites throughout the counties of Livingston, Macomb, Oakland, Washington and Wayne. The authority operates nature centers at Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford and Stony Creek Metropolitan Park near Utica which are open year-around.

Naturalist Hired At Kensington

A 1968 graduate with a bachelor of science degree from Wisconsin State University in Oshkosh, has been appointed to the naturalist staff of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

He is James A. Jagfield, who has been assigned to the Nature Center of Kensington Metropolitan Park near Milford.

As a park naturalist, his primary duties will be to prepare and explain exhibits at the Nature Center, to interpret the plant and animal life of Kensington Park to visitors and provide lectures to school-age youngsters visiting the nature center.

Previously he was employed with the Department of Fish Management, Conservation Division of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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